

## Important Commencement and Graduation Information

**Commencement** is a ceremony.

**Graduation** signifies the official completion of all degree requirements.

**They are NOT the same thing - Attending Commencement does not mean you Graduated!**

### **ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS:**

In order to be eligible to attend the **Commencement Ceremony** in May you must:

1. Complete a Degree Application in the Registrar's Office by the end of the first week in February (or have completed all degree requirements in the previous summer or fall term).
2. Be **registered** for courses necessary to complete ALL degree requirements in the Spring term as of the last day to drop courses with a WP/WF. (Including approved Spring transfer credit courses, for which you are registered, that may not be completed until after the ceremony).

In order to be considered a **May Graduate** you must:

1. Complete a Degree Application in the Registrar's Office by the end of the first week in February.
2. \*Successfully complete **ALL** course requirements for your degree program **PRIOR** to the Commencement Ceremony. (Including the receipt of final transcripts for courses approved for transfer credit in the spring)

**\*This is a NYS Education Department Regulation**

If you were eligible to attend Commencement but did not meet **all graduation requirements prior** to the May ceremony (including Spring Study Tour classes) you must:

1. Complete a Degree Application in the Registrar's Office by the end of the first week in June to be considered for an August 31 graduation date.

**Note:** Once all requirements are met with final grades and/or transcripts for transfer credit purposes have been processed, the Registrar's Office will provide an official statement on request indicating all degree requirements have been met (for job or graduate school purposes) and that the diploma will be awarded as of August 31.

## **PROSPECTIVE GRADUATE CONDUCT REQUIREMENTS:**

All students, including prospective graduates, are subject to all disciplinary action up to and including suspension, expulsion, and non-participation in Senior Week and Commencement activities at the sole discretion of the College.

Siena College students must not only comply with all degree requirements to obtain a Siena College degree and/or to participate in Commencement activities, but also must follow all College rules and policies affecting their student status, including, but not limited to, those set forth in the *Siena College Catalog*, as well as those enumerated in *Siena Life*, the student handbook.

For this reason, it is important to understand that the term “student” is inclusive of completing all degree requirements until commencement exercises are complete and the student / graduate has vacated the campus (see *Siena Life* and/or College Catalog for the complete definition of “student”).